

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/603,927
Atty. Docket No. Q76299

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 15 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 11 have been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 12-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 5 has been amended and claim 15 has been newly added.

Specification

The specification is objected to at page 3, lines 9-11 as allegedly being awkwardly worded. It is unclear why the Examiner believes that this portion of the specification is awkwardly worded as Applicants believe that the phrase “an air jetting unit which jets air” is sufficiently clear. Therefore, Applicants have not amended this portion of the specification. If the Examiner continues to believe that this portion of the specification needs to be amended, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner particularly point out what is awkward about the phrase and make a suggestion for modifying the language.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 2, 4, 9, 10, 12 and 14 for informalities. These claims have been canceled rendering the objection moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 12 has been canceled rendering the rejection moot.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cunningham, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,335,394). Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled, rendering their rejection moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 5.

Cunningham clearly lacks several features of claim 5. For example, Cunningham lacks a lens holding part with a cup as claimed. Accordingly, claim 5 is allowable over Cunningham.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 6, 9, 10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,072) in view of Gottschald et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,749,377). Claims 6, 9, 10 and 12-14 have been canceled, rendering their rejection moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 5 sets forth a conveying device which comprises a suction unit for sucking and holding a second refractive surface opposite to a first refractive surface which is attached to a cup. Claim 5 also sets forth an air blowing unit that removes the processing water by blowing air toward the second refractive surface before the second refractive surface is sucked and held by the suction unit.

The references cited by the Examiner, either taken alone or in combination, fail to teach each and every element as claimed. For example, both Shibata and Gottschald fail to teach a conveying device as claimed. Claim 5 sets forth a conveying device with a suction unit and an air blowing unit which blows air at the lens before it is sucked and held by the suction unit.

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Thus, water which could interfere with the suction device is removed before the lens is sucked.

Such a feature is not taught or suggested by the Examiner's combination.

The Examiner asserts that Shibata teaches a lens conveying device 300. However, the alleged Shibata conveying device 300 uses clamp fingers (321a, 321b). Shibata does not teach a conveying device which includes a suction unit as claimed. Particularly, Shibata does not disclose a conveying device with a suction unit which sucks and holds a lens to convey the lens and an air blowing unit that removes water attached to the lens by blowing air towards the lens before the suction unit sucks and holds the lens. This deficiency of Shibata is not corrected by Gottschald.

Gottschald discloses an apparatus for non-contact measuring an edge of a preliminarily machined lens using a laser beam. Gottschald teaches removing water attached to an edge of the lens in order to prevent measurement error. However, Gottschald does not correct the deficiencies of Shibata. Gottschald does not disclose a conveying device with a suction unit which sucks and holds a lens to convey the lens and an air blowing unit that removes water attached to the lens by blowing air towards the lens before the suction unit sucks and holds the lens and therefore does not correct this deficiency of Shibata. Accordingly, claim 5 is allowable over the combined teachings and suggestions of Shibata and Gottschald.

New Claims

For additional claim coverage merited by the scope of the invention, Applicant is adding new claim 15-21. Claim 15 depends from claim 5 and is therefore allowable at least because of its dependency. Claim 16 is allowable at least because none of the cited references, either alone

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or in combination, teach a blowing unit which blows air at a lens before it is conveyed by a conveying device as claimed. Claims 17-21 depend from claim 16 and are therefore allowable at least because of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

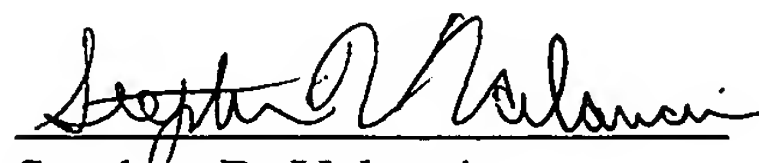
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